



LAKE MINNETONKA COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

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Before the
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554

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JUL 19 2004

FCC - MAILROOM

MB Docket No. **04-207**

Comments Requested on A La Carte and Themed Tier Programming
and Pricing Options for Programming Distribution on Cable Television
and Direct Broadcast Satellite Systems

DEEPHAVEN

EXCELSIOR

GREENWOOD

INDEPENDENCE

LONG LAKE

LORETTO

MEDINA

MINNETONKA
BEACH

MINNETRISTA

ORONO

ST. BONIFACIUS

SHOREWOOD

SPRING PARK

TONKA BAY

VICTORIA

WOODLAND

**COMMENTS OF THE LAKE MINNETONKA COMMUNICATIONS
COMMISSION** (representing the cities of Deephaven, Excelsior,
Greenwood, Independence, Long Lake, Loretto, Medina, Minnetonka
Beach, Minnetrista, Orono, St. Bonifacius, Shorewood, Spring Park,
Tonka Bay, Victoria, and Woodland, Minnesota)

The Lake Minnetonka Communications Commission has been interested in
supporting efforts to increase the availability of a la carte programming.
However, the FCC's public notice seeks very specific information
concerning programming negotiations and regulations, and is primarily
directed to cable operators and programmers. Therefore, the LMCC is
submitting a statement of support for FCC and legislative action that
would improve programming options and lower cost to subscribers.

These comments are filed by the Lake Minnetonka Communications
Commission, a joint powers governmental organization, responsible for
regulation and monitoring of the franchise agreement with the cable
company. The Lake Minnetonka Communications Commission,
representing 16 Minnesota cities, supports:

1. Programmers offering programs on an a la carte basis so that MVPD's
can cost effectively offer programming on an a la carte basis.
2. Programming packages that may offer "degrees" of a la carte on
a themed tier basis.
3. Cable companies and programming content providers working
together, within a legal framework, to provide offerings that lower the
the cost to subscribers but offer more flexibility in programming options.

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4. The retention of some "must carries" specifically, PEG channels and broadcast channels on a "basic tier".

The Lake Minnetonka Communications Commission understands that it may not be feasible to offer all programming a la carte. However, greater channel selection in smaller packages, without necessarily having any mandatory tier (expanded basic) over and above the basic tier, might lower the cost to subscribers. Subscribers on the cable system now have to receive (and pay for) expanded basic in order to receive any packages over and above the basic tier. If subscribers could chose packages without requiring the expanded basic it would diminish their cost by \$32.45.

The Lake Minnetonka Communications Commission supports efforts by Congress and the FCC to lower cable television costs so more residents of our communities can afford the programming they feel is worthwhile.

The Lake Minnetonka Communications Commission has not addressed specific questions in the Public Notice because we are not a cable company and not in a position to provide the specific data the FCC is asking for. The LMCC has made the franchised cable provider in our area aware of our desire to improve programming options and lower costs to subscribers at the same time.

The cable system serving our communities is Mediacom and has approximately 11,700 subscribers. The cable company offers subscribers 186 video channels including digital and HDTV package options and 54 digital music channels. High speed cable modem service is offered in our communities.

Respectfully submitted,



Dennis Stanga

Chairman

Lake Minnetonka Communications Commission

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June 30, 2004

cc: Tom Bordwell, Mediacom